

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW ORLEANS, LA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2000

Workers in the New Orleans, Louisiana, metropolitan area averaged \$14.33 per hour during March 2000, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Bob Gaddie reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.30 per hour and accounted for 51 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$13.40 per hour and represented 30 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 19 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$7.70 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 134 firms representing 256,200 workers in the New Orleans metropolitan area, which includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana. Seventy-three percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the New Orleans metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for more than 65 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, petroleum engineers averaged \$35.09 per hour; registered nurses, \$21.17; accountants and auditors, \$20.91; and secretaries, \$11.94. Blue-collar occupations included production supervisors earning \$26.19, electricians at \$15.36, and welders and cutters at \$14.57. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$12.83 per hour; janitors and cleaners, \$8.45; cooks, \$8.02; and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$7.11.

National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2000 (continued)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the New Orleans area averaged \$14.94 per hour and part-timers earned \$7.57. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$16.27 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$12.88. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$13.48 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$16.27.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the New Orleans, LA National Compensation Survey March 2000 (Bulletin number 3105-30). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://stats.bls.gov/comhome.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting documents 9534 and 9535.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings (1), all workers (2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2000

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$14.33	3.7	\$14.03	4.9	\$15.20	3.6
All excluding sales	14.47	3.6	14.19	4.7	15.21	3.6
White collar	17.30	4.1	16.84	5.8	18.34	4.1
White collar excluding sales	17.99	3.7	17.80	5.2	18.36	4.1
Professional specialty and technical	21.73	4.0	22.18	6.5	21.13	3.5
Professional specialty	24.20	4.1	26.18	7.2	22.37	3.6
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	29.94	5.5	30.26	5.5	—	—
Petroleum engineers	35.09	3.9	35.09	3.9	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	30.54	4.5	30.54	4.5	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists	33.42	22.5	33.42	22.5	—	—
Health related	21.12	3.3	20.36	3.4	22.34	6.1
Registered nurses	21.17	3.5	20.55	3.4	22.19	7.1
Teachers, college and university	31.09	9.4	41.54	8.9	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	23.73	6.6	—	—	25.45	2.3
Prekindergarten and kindergarten	24.97	3.4	—	—	—	—
Elementary school teachers	25.96	1.7	—	—	25.96	1.7
Secondary school teachers	25.73	1.2	—	—	25.73	1.2
Teachers, special education	24.55	10.6	—	—	26.96	3.8
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	12.50	3.2	—	—	11.94	1.8
Social workers	12.70	3.2	—	—	12.10	1.1
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	20.41	14.9	21.10	20.0	—	—
Professional, n.e.c.	23.75	17.1	—	—	—	—
Technical	15.40	5.3	15.94	6.5	13.38	7.2
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	15.31	10.8	—	—	—	—
Radiological technicians	16.72	6.0	16.49	8.3	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	12.63	3.4	12.69	3.9	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	13.81	13.1	15.60	16.5	10.66	6.2
Electrical and electronic technicians	17.00	12.4	17.00	12.4	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	13.32	10.4	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.84	6.4	27.18	8.4	26.17	9.1
Executives, administrators, and managers	30.28	7.7	31.55	11.9	28.68	8.2
Administrators and officials, public administration	33.14	19.4	—	—	33.14	19.4
Administrators, education and related fields	31.82	1.9	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	35.90	12.5	36.75	12.7	—	—
Management related	22.52	10.2	23.37	11.5	19.03	14.1
Accountants and auditors	20.91	10.1	22.96	5.9	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	22.71	19.5	20.97	22.8	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	21.22	5.5	20.40	7.2	—	—
Sales	12.16	22.2	12.18	22.3	—	—
Cashiers	5.95	7.9	5.90	7.8	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.05	4.0	11.42	4.9	9.95	4.1
Supervisors, general office	14.60	14.2	—	—	—	—
Secretaries	11.94	5.3	13.00	5.6	10.11	5.4
Receptionists	8.81	10.0	8.89	11.2	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	8.73	10.8	—	—	9.73	18.5
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	10.60	6.4	10.34	6.5	—	—
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	10.09	4.7	10.09	4.7	—	—
Billing clerks	9.28	6.7	—	—	—	—
Dispatchers	14.15	7.4	—	—	14.15	7.4
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	10.94	10.2	10.94	10.2	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	8.34	8.5	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	9.76	7.4	10.80	11.6	8.81	6.3
Teachers' aides	10.35	7.4	—	—	10.35	7.4
Administrative support, n.e.c.	9.92	6.9	9.45	8.4	10.83	6.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings (1), all workers (2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2000 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar	\$13.40	5.3	\$13.76	5.9	\$11.32	4.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.44	5.3	18.28	5.7	13.09	4.9
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	27.17	32.6	—	—	—	—
Automobile mechanics	14.13	11.6	—	—	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	14.63	6.3	15.82	8.5	12.45	7.1
Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c.	21.10	10.6	—	—	14.63	7.8
Electricians	15.36	5.7	15.72	6.7	—	—
Supervisors, production	26.19	9.0	26.70	8.4	—	—
Water and sewer treatment plant operators	11.14	10.5	—	—	11.14	10.5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.86	5.6	11.92	5.8	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	10.91	9.9	10.91	10.0	—	—
Welders and cutters	14.57	3.4	14.57	3.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving	11.49	4.6	11.49	5.5	11.49	5.5
Truck drivers	10.23	10.1	10.33	12.2	—	—
Bus drivers	12.47	5.8	—	—	11.62	4.4
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	11.51	5.7	11.66	5.3	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.02	8.6	9.11	10.0	8.54	9.8
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	7.10	3.4	—	—	7.65	4.3
Helpers, construction trades	8.67	5.9	—	—	—	—
Construction laborers	8.15	6.5	—	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.76	9.7	8.76	9.7	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	11.14	22.8	12.78	23.2	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.33	17.2	9.37	17.3	—	—
Service	7.70	4.7	6.92	6.0	9.55	5.1
Protective service	10.35	6.6	9.17	14.0	10.99	5.6
Supervisors, police and detectives	16.20	3.4	—	—	16.20	3.4
Firefighting	11.03	14.9	—	—	9.19	4.6
Police and detectives, public service	12.83	4.3	—	—	13.17	3.6
Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers	8.86	10.2	—	—	8.86	10.2
Correctional institution officers	8.97	5.5	—	—	8.97	5.5
Guards and police, except public service	7.37	3.4	7.53	4.2	—	—
Food service	5.44	7.0	5.20	7.3	8.24	12.7
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.55	12.8	3.55	12.8	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.27	12.5	3.27	12.5	—	—
Other food service	6.96	6.3	6.75	6.6	8.24	12.7
Cooks	8.02	5.8	7.87	6.0	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.84	9.2	6.66	10.1	—	—
Health service	7.42	4.5	7.04	5.3	8.16	6.4
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	7.11	3.8	6.84	4.8	7.66	3.5
Cleaning and building service	7.52	7.0	6.96	4.8	9.04	14.1
Maids and housemen	6.46	4.4	6.47	4.4	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	8.45	11.6	7.41	8.0	9.22	15.9
Personal service	8.65	16.5	9.27	18.1	—	—
Attendants, amusement, and recreation facilities	6.93	14.4	—	—	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	8.51	8.8	8.51	8.8	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around

a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means not elsewhere classified. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately. IN THIS SURVEY, THE NONRESPONSE RATE FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED REGULAR SURVEY STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION. ACCORDINGLY, USERS SHOULD INTERPRET THESE RESULTS WITH THIS LIMITATION IN MIND.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings (1) by occupational group (2), National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2000

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$14.94	\$7.57	\$16.02	\$14.19	\$14.00	\$23.29
All excluding sales	15.06	7.71	15.87	14.35	14.25	24.77
White collar	17.71	10.33	19.32	17.22	16.86	26.72
White-collar excluding sales	18.30	11.80	19.68	17.94	17.68	—
Professional specialty and technical	21.87	18.25	23.86	21.67	21.39	—
Professional specialty	24.32	20.93	—	24.20	23.76	—
Technical	15.51	13.38	—	15.19	15.40	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.94	12.11	—	26.84	26.28	—
Sales	12.99	—	—	11.61	8.60	21.55
Administrative support, including clerical	11.30	7.47	17.27	10.71	10.77	—
Blue collar	13.67	8.33	16.27	12.88	13.19	18.98
Precision production, craft, and repair	17.49	—	19.51	16.97	17.11	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.90	—	13.02	11.48	11.73	—
Transportation and material moving	11.89	9.20	12.64	11.22	11.32	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.20	6.84	—	8.88	9.02	—
Service	8.37	5.24	9.37	7.59	7.68	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.7	6.6	7.6	4.0	3.6	15.8
All excluding sales	3.6	7.0	8.1	3.8	3.5	18.1
White collar	4.2	10.7	3.0	4.3	4.1	18.9
White-collar excluding sales	3.7	9.6	3.9	3.8	3.7	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.1	7.9	2.5	4.1	3.8	—
Professional specialty	4.3	5.7	—	4.3	3.9	—
Technical	5.4	8.1	—	5.4	5.3	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.4	30.1	—	6.4	6.2	—
Sales	23.7	—	—	24.6	15.4	26.9
Administrative support, including clerical	4.0	3.7	4.9	3.4	3.9	—
Blue collar	5.3	8.8	10.3	6.1	5.3	21.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.3	—	7.2	6.3	5.3	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.7	—	3.8	7.2	5.4	—
Transportation and material moving	3.1	14.3	3.9	5.6	5.0	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.0	5.4	—	9.1	8.6	—
Service	4.9	5.8	16.1	4.9	4.7	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. IN THIS SURVEY, THE NONRESPONSE RATE FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED REGULAR SURVEY STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION. ACCORDINGLY, USERS SHOULD INTERPRET THESE RESULTS WITH THIS LIMITATION IN MIND.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings (1) by occupational group (2), private industry, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2000

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$14.03	\$13.48	\$14.14	\$12.96	\$16.27
All excluding sales	14.19	12.39	14.55	13.46	16.28
White collar	16.84	18.19	16.62	15.26	18.23
White-collar excluding sales	17.80	16.01	18.12	17.97	18.25
Professional specialty and technical	22.18	21.30	22.34	21.83	22.62
Professional specialty	26.18	22.12	27.33	27.43	27.29
Technical	15.94	—	15.97	17.29	14.90
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.18	19.64	28.40	29.85	26.56
Sales	12.18	—	9.78	9.65	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.42	10.82	11.54	11.58	11.49
Blue collar	13.76	11.24	14.37	13.86	15.81
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.28	15.15	18.83	19.77	17.44
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.92	9.19	13.02	12.42	15.54
Transportation and material moving	11.49	10.90	11.67	11.50	12.40
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.11	8.38	9.28	9.29	9.25
Service	6.92	—	7.05	6.57	8.33
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	4.9	12.2	5.1	8.1	6.2
All excluding sales	4.7	9.9	5.1	8.4	6.2
White collar	5.8	15.1	6.0	10.1	7.3
White-collar excluding sales	5.2	13.8	5.6	9.7	7.4
Professional specialty and technical	6.5	22.1	6.7	8.2	10.1
Professional specialty	7.2	24.2	6.7	9.0	8.9
Technical	6.5	—	6.8	8.2	9.5
Executive, administrative, and managerial	8.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	13.4
Sales	22.3	—	14.1	14.4	—
Administrative support, including clerical	4.9	10.3	5.4	9.5	6.2
Blue collar	5.9	9.3	6.4	8.6	9.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.7	9.7	6.0	7.1	11.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.8	14.0	5.3	6.0	6.0
Transportation and material moving	5.5	18.0	3.5	4.0	7.8
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.0	7.8	11.9	13.1	17.4
Service	6.0	—	6.4	8.0	6.6

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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